

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05116 041226Z

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ACTION PM-07

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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

USMTM DHAHRAN

COE RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FMS CASE FOR USMTM

REF: (A) JIDDA 2116 (B) JIDDA 3549 (C) JIDDA 4464 (D) JIDDA 4637

SUMMARY: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FUNDS REQUESTED IN PROPOSED FMS CASE FOR THE USMTM SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED TO INSURE THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL FUNDS BE DEPLETED BEFORE END OF THREE-YEAR PERIOD. EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES THAT GENEROUS FUNDS SHOULD BE INCLUDED FOR DEPENDENTS' EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL, FOR FAMILY R&R TRAVEL, AND FOR DRIVERS FOR WOMEN. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SAUDI ARABIAN TOUR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (SATEP) EMBASSY HAS CONCLUDED THAT OUR PROPOSED FMS CASE FOR THE USMTM SHOULD BE DRAWN UP WITH THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND:

A. SIZE OF REQUEST: THE INITIAL REQUEST MUST BE LARGE ENOUGH TO INSURE THAT NO SUPPLEMENTARY REQUESTS WILL BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 05116 041226Z

REQUIRED DURING THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD OF THE SALES CASE. THE SAG

IS NOT SO CONCERNED WITH KEEPING DOWN THE TOTAL COST OF A PROGRAM AS IT IS WITH KNOWING THAT ONCE AN AMOUNT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON IT WILL NOT BE EXCEEDED. OUR REQUEST SHOULD BE GENEROUS ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE WORST POSSIBLE INFLATIONARY RATES. AN ESTIMATE IN THE TWENTY TO THIRTY MILLION DOLLAR RANGE, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR ALL CONTINGENCIES, IS PREFERABLE TO A FINELY-HONED ESTIMATE OF 14.258 MILLION WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE SUPPLEMENTED SOMETIME DURING THE THIRD YEAR OF THE PROGRAM.

B. RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS: IN VIEW OF RECENT AND PRESENTLY FORESEEN LARGE INFLUX OF CIVILIANS WORKING FOR AMERICAN (AND OTHER) FIRMS, BELIEVE RENTAL ESTIMATES DEVELOPED LAST MAY AND JUNE ARE NO LONGER VALID. USMTM SHOULD PROVIDE NEW RENTAL ESTIMATES FOR THREE-YEAR PERIOD OF PROPOSED FMS CASE. WHILE REQUESTING FUNDS TO RENT VILLAS DURING LIFE OF INITIAL FMS CASE, HOWEVER, BELIEVE WE SHOULD STRESS TO SULTAN THAT WE VIEW THIS AS INTERIM MEASURE, AND THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF USMTM RESIDENTIAL COMPOUNDS, AT LEAST IN JIDDA, RIYADH, TAIF AND DHAHRAN, BY THE END OF THE THREE-YEAR FMS CASE IS THE PREFERRED OBJECTIVE. COMPOUNDS OFFER MANY SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES TO DEPENDENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND GREATLY SIMPLIFY RESIDENTIAL O&M REQUIREMENTS. USMTM, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SHOULD DEVELOP CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY ILLUSTRATE TO SULTAN THAT COMPOUND CONSTRUCTION WILL SAVE MODA MONEY IN THE LONG RUN. IF THESE ESTIMATES CAN BE READY BY THE TIME WE PRESENT PROPOSED FMS CASE, SO MUCH THE BETTER. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO DELAY FMS PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, AND IF NECESSARY WILL TAKE UP COMPOUND CONSTRUCTION ISSUE AT A LATER DATE, INITIALLY TELLING SULTAN THAT WE ARE DEVELOPING COST ESTIMATES.

C. EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL: WE BELIEVE OUR REQUEST SHOULD INCLUDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR TUITION FOR 9-12 GRADE STUDENTS TO ATTEND PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF THEIR CHOICE IN EUROPE OR US, WITH ROUNDTrip TRAVEL THREE TIMES YEARLY TO INSURE THAT CHILDREN MAY RETURN TO THEIR HOMES DURING ALL SCHOOL VACATIONS AT NO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP TO THEIR PARENTS.

D. R&R: WE SHOULD INCLUDE FUNDS TO ALLOW TWO R&R TRIPS TO EUROPE FOR ENTIRE FAMILY DURING ADVISORS' TWO YEAR TOUR, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JIDDA 05116 041226Z

WITH ADDITIONAL TRIP TO BEIRUT OR TEHRAN FOR WIVES DURING TWO-YEAR TOUR. (SAG NOW PROVIDES MID-TOUR ROUNDTrip TRAVEL TO STATES FOR THOSE ON UNACCOMPANIED TOUR.) SUCH A REQUEST WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM PAY FRENCH EXPERTS THEIR TRAVEL (AND SALARY WHILE HOME) FOR ONE MONTH OUT OF EVERY FOUR.

E. DRIVERS: CARS AND DRIVERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR WOMEN'S USE SO LONG AS WOMEN ARE PROHIBITED FROM DRIVING IN SAUDI ARABIA.

F. LANGUAGE TRAINING: THE 6-8 WEEK LANGUAGE FAMILIARIZATION COURSE RECOMMENDED IN REF A, PARA 5E SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR WIVES AS WELL.

2. IN MAKING OUR PRESENTATION TO SULTAN, WE WOULD HOPE TO AVOID PRESENTATION OF DETAILED ITEMIZATION OF ABOVE AND OTHER COSTS, LIMITING OURSELVES TO ILLUSTRATION OF BROADBRUSH CATEGORIES OF EXPENDITURE. MORE DETAILED BACK-UP SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE AVAILABLE IF WE SHOULD UNAVOIDABLY HAVE TO UNDERTAKE THIS KIND OF PRESENTATION. SHOULD SULTAN QUESTION ESTIMATES CLOSELY OUR POSITION WOULD BE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT COSTS COULD BE PARED DOWN BUT THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED OUR INITIAL ESTIMATES BEARING IN MIND WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO OBTAIN FIRST RATE PERSONNEL, WHO ARE ALWAYS IN HIGH DEMAND, MAKING IT CLEAR TO MINDEF THAT WE BELIEVE BENEFITS ARE COMPARABLE TO THOSE RECEIVED BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY WORKING IN COUNTRY AND THAT REDUCTION IN SUPPORT WILL INEVITABLY RESULT IN FEWER FIRST RATE PERSONNEL ACCEPTING TWO-YEAR ACCOMPANIED TOUR IN SAUDI ARABIA.

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